

## Husband's Name:

**VALENTINE WILLIAM "BILLY" SMITH**

Born: 12 July 1924 Braeholm, Logan Co., West Virginia<sup>1</sup>  
 Married: 19 June 1948 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey<sup>2</sup>  
 Died: 19 June 2006 West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co., FL  
 Cremation: Cremains scattered at sea and buried in *Saint Mary's Cemetery*, Trenton, NJ  
 Father: JOSEPH JOHN SMITH (6 January 1883 to 5 September 1940)  
 Mother: ANNA MARY KUTARNIA (22 July 1889 to 1 November 1978)

## Wife's Name:

**ALBERTA JEAN MATELENA**

Born: 4 February 1929 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
 Died: 6 December 1971 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey  
 Buried: *Saint Mary's Cemetery*, Trenton, New Jersey  
 Father: ALBERT JOSEPH MATELENA (5 February 1896 to 8 October 1981)  
 Mother: DOROTHY RUTH SOUTHARD (17 January 1907 to 12 November 1960)

## Issue:

## Born:

## Where:

- |                              |                      |   |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1) WILLIAM CRAIG SMITH       | 8 October 1951       | Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey        |
| 2) VALERIE JEAN SMITH        | 15 November 1952     | Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey        |
| 3) ROBERT JOSEPH SMITH       | 19 January 1955      | Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey        |
| 4) <b>BRIAN ALBERT SMITH</b> | <b>9 August 1959</b> | <b>Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey</b> |
| 5) MELISSA DOROTHY SMITH     | 12 March 1966        | Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey        |

They met in the summer of 1946 when VALENTINE'S friend, JOHN NABINGER, asked him to double-date with DOROTHY and MARIE MATELENA. While sitting on the living room couch, ALBERTA came up from the basement where she had been washing the family dog. After introductions, VALENTINE asked her for a date, despite her disheveled and damp appearance. Their engagement was announced in local newspapers in February 1948.<sup>3</sup> The 1948 Trenton city directory gives 1239 South Broad Street, an address that never existed, as VALENTINE'S address while 1237 is given for the rest of his family.<sup>4</sup>

They were married on Saturday, 19 June 1948 by REVEREND WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Trenton, New Jersey. His brother, JOHN J. SMITH was best man and her sister, DOROTHY MATELENA was maid-of-honor. The other members of the wedding party were: ushers - JOSEPH and MICHAEL SMITH, brothers of the groom, and PETER GURLAND,



brother-in-law of the groom; bridesmaids - KATHRYN SMITH, twin sister of the groom, DOLORES DEFILLIPS FURMAN, cousin of the bride, and THERESA LAUTERIO GAVENDA, first cousin once removed of the bride; and BARBARA DUPRAS, niece of the groom, was the flower-girl. Their reception was held at Fisher's Restaurant (later Landwehr's) on the Delaware River, north of Trenton. Outside the Dayton House Pub, the



newlyweds were introduced to an old Hungarian tradition – giving the bride a *bunkósbot* to help keep her husband in line. This Hungarian version of the cudgel is similar to the Irish *shillelagh*, in that both began as weapons and are now used during wedding festivities. They spent two weeks of their honeymoon in a cabin on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee in central New Hampshire and two more weeks at Niagara Falls, New York during which they were on the Canadian side of the falls between June 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. An announcement appeared in Trenton's *Sunday Times-Advertiser* on 29 August 1948.

At first they lived above the Dayton House Pub, remodeling the third floor into an apartment. VALENTINE used his GI benefits to enter Drexel Institute of Technology, now Drexel College, on Chestnut Avenue in Philadelphia on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1949 in the electrical engineering program. They lived at what is now Mercerville Trailer Park on Route 130 in Robbinsville, New Jersey during the two terms he studied there; ending 21 July 1949.<sup>5</sup> During these first few years, their life was hectic – 3 moves in a short time, work and college for VALENTINE, living away from home for the first time for ALBERTA and, some say, without a telephone or a car to keep in touch. Available records indicate that, contrary to the “common knowledge” of family members, VALENTINE stopped working at his mother's Pub during the period he was a Drexel student. In 1949 the young couple was involved in a serious head-on automobile accident in the early evening hours of Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> *on Route 33 near the Club Cilo*, actually the Clio Club which became Cedar Gardens in Mercerville in 1952. *Mrs. Smith suffered a sprained right ankle, a cut on the right shin which required three stitches and cuts of the hands and face. Her husband received a slight laceration and a bump on his forehead. Both were treated at St. Francis Hospital.* The collision occurred when both drivers, traveling in opposite directions, entered the middle passing lane of the three-lane roadway to pass other drivers. The other driver, 19 year old DONALD RAETER of Roosevelt, NJ was unhurt. *LIEUTENANT PHILLIP BOOZ took the victims to the hospital in a police ambulance.* They were summoned to appear in the township municipal court on December 15<sup>th</sup>.<sup>6</sup> ALBERTA could still trace the scar on her leg many years later. The afore-mentioned “common knowledge” of family members also characterize the time spent living at the mobile home park in Robbinsville as being a period of devastating isolation for ALBERTA. However, like so much of such “knowledge” – it does not hold up to scrutiny. When talking with one of ALBERTA's favorite cousins, GLADYS (MATELENA) GROPP, this author was surprised to find out that ALBERTA did have friends nearby. This very cousin lived in a mobile home in the same park with her husband ANDY. And if the closeness of a favorite cousin was insufficient, ALBERTA's favorite aunt and uncle, JOHN and JOSEPHINE MATELENA, lived in the mobile home next to their daughter GLADYS! So much for the *isolation* that was so devastating to ALBERTA (which was her husband's fault according to more than one of ALBERTA's friends and relatives). This does not negate the fact that, while living in the mobile home, ALBERTA suffered what was called at that time, a nervous breakdown. Her sister DOROTHY referred her to a psychiatrist she knew from being a nurse at Saint Francis Hospital and ALBERTA recovered under his care while in a private sanitarium for three months.

When ALBERTA returned to the trailer park she found they had new neighbors – newlyweds LOUIS and JULIE MAKRANCY were living there while their home was being built on Kuser Road. They would remain great friends throughout their lives and LOUIS would serve as confirmation sponsor for each son and JULIE did the same for both daughters. Around this time ALBERTA was diagnosed with an enlarged thyroid gland or goiter which was surgically reduced

in size. This was a very difficult time for the young couple and virtually no photographs of their time spent in the mobile home are known to exist with one exception – that being one taken of their first child, CRAIG, on their sofa, and that one is only known through the recollection of the author as the whereabouts of that picture are not known but it is believed to have been in one of the boxes that would be lost when VALENTINE moved to Florida many years later.

On 18 August 1952, they bought a house, complete with a “Tappan Gas Range 36,” on a 55 X 100 foot lot at 684 Independence Avenue, in the DeCou Village section of Hamilton Township, a suburb of Trenton, New Jersey from the Arbor Haven Corporation of Camden, NJ.<sup>7</sup> They financed their purchase with a \$10,000.00 mortgage from South Jersey Mortgage Company that had monthly payments of \$52.79.<sup>8</sup> This house would be expanded and remodeled over the years to accommodate the growing family. On 6 July 1958 VAL obtained a permit to build rear porch whose estimated cost was \$165.00; on 22 July 1962 a permit was issued to him to have a pool installed by Valley Pools at a cost of \$2,195.00!<sup>9</sup>

Their marriage continued to be a rocky one and ALBERTA left VALENTINE for two weeks in 1953. Taking CRAIG and VALERIE with her, she stayed with her sister DOROTHY in Lawrenceville. Being a devout, if not practicing, Roman Catholic, divorce was not an option available to ALBERTA and she returned to VALENTINE where she stayed for the rest of her life. Their life together appears to have improved after this and VAL was able to pursue his hobby of photography. In the third week of an ongoing photo contest sponsored by Trenton’s *Sunday Times-Advertiser*, VAL was a *Class A* winner with his submission of a photo of his son CRAIG at the beach; announced in the newspaper on 24 June 1956 he won \$5!<sup>10</sup>

He had worked intermittently at the Dayton House Pub owned by his mother and located on the ground floor of the home he grew up in after returning from his tour-of-duty in the South Pacific during World War II. One work day was Monday, 13 June 1955. There, with his brother JACK who was visiting from California, they heard a frantic yell just after midnight from his sister KATHRYN, who lived in the residence above with their mother: she had just spotted a prowler! Dashing outside the brothers managed to spot the prowler just as he dropped off the rooftops to Broad Street and made his getaway.<sup>11</sup> The police spied the man a while later but failed to make an apprehension. His mother withdrew from all operation of the Dayton House and on 28 May 1959 the alcoholic beverage license number C-255 for the Dayton House was transferred from ANNA K SMITH to VAL W. SMITH and PETER P. GURLAND, in partnership, by Trenton Board of Commissioners.<sup>12</sup> Close to his sister MARGARET at this time, she and husband PETE were godparents at the baptism of their son BRIAN. He took over full time operation of the Pub in December 1960 where he remained until 19 November 1962. His decision to leave the Pub, due in part to the late hours required and in part to a job offer from RCA, created dissension in the family. As a partner in the alcoholic beverage license, actions that affected that license affected both partners. ANNA, still owner of the bar, would only pass ownership to a son, or a son and a son-in-law, such as VAL and PETE, but not to a daughter. When VAL decided to end his Pub days, ANNA put the whole thing up for sale – the Pub, the license and the residence. Six months later the home and business was sold. MARGARET and PETE felt they had lost out and may have even filed a lawsuit against ANNA and VAL for losses, or only threatened to do so, after which they supposedly received some of the sale price in compensation of their losses. VAL and MARGARET’S relationship was strained for a number of years after this.

Not forgetting his education completely, he started working part-time as a field engineer

for a Radio Corporation of America (RCA) facility based in Cherry Hill, New Jersey on 19 June 1959, less than a month after taking over operation of the Dayton House. He continued at RCA and the Pub for a year and a half, leaving RCA on 1 December 1960.<sup>13</sup> He bid the Pub farewell when RCA offered him a full-time position at their Astro-Electronics Division (AED) at their David Sarnoff Center in Princeton, New Jersey. DAVID SARNOFF was the first wireless operator who had the inkling of an impending disaster when he picked up the distress signal sent by the *Titanic* on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April in 1912; SARNOFF would go on to be one of the founders of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in the early 1920s. VAL started working there on 19 November 1962, where he helped develop and build RCA's line of defense electronics for the military. Two years later he was offered a better position by International Business Machines (IBM) in East Fishkill, New York. He accepted the position and started there on 6 June 1964. VALENTINE's community involvement until this time included being a committee chairman for the Cub Scouts between January 1960 and July 1963 when their son ROBERT was involved in that organization. He was also a member of the American Legion Post Number 31 in Yardville, New Jersey starting in June 1950; his involvement ended in April 1964 with his hiring by IBM.

VALENTINE stayed with IBM in East Fishkill for almost two years but decided not to continue for a number of reasons – his last day was 9 May 1966. Among the reasons for not staying was he had no desire to permanently relocate to that area and neither did ALBERTA. Another was that he was involved in a very serious automobile accident, being hit head-on by an 18-wheeled truck at about this time. His car was demolished and pictures of it have the front axle sitting on what is left of the hood. After recovering from the acute injuries, ALBERTA had him transported by ambulance back to Trenton. Over two decades later he had a piece of glass removed from his eye, where it had apparently slid in between the eye and the bone of the socket.

After recovering VAL and ALBERTA travelled to Cocoa Beach, Florida in late spring 1966 for a possible career change. It is thought that VAL was investigating a position in military surveillance at Patrick Air Force Base within the Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTAC) located there. This may indicate his involvement with the Navy program discussed below at an early period than was previously thought to have occurred. For uncertain reasons, one of which was the aggravation of ALBERTA's rheumatoid arthritis, the job did not materialize.

Returning to Trenton, he went into business for himself, opening the King Kone Ice Cream Parlor at 1837 South Broad Street in Hamilton Township, New Jersey which lasted through that summer. Difficulties with maintaining a steady income from that venture, coupled with problems from a New York company of the same name, precipitated the return to the electronics field. He was able to resume working at AED in Princeton until January 1968 when he made a transfer within RCA to their service facility in Cherry Hill. Whether this was the same facility he worked at in 1959/60 or not has yet to be determined. Six months later he left RCA all together and began working at S & M Electric Company, located at the intersection of Stokes and Dover Avenues in Trenton. This position also lasted just six months after which he, once again, returned to RCA in January 1969. He worked at the Naval Air Development Center (NADC) in Johnsville, Pennsylvania. In Johnsville he worked on he worked on the development of the *sonobuoys*: under water sound detectors needed to pinpoint the location of submarines. Their development was a function of the success of the U-boat destructive powers during the early years of WW II. In early 1942 "Operation Drumbeat" – a five-month U-boat offensive on the U.S. East coast – was a spectacular success with almost six hundred American ships sunk along

the Atlantic coast with a loss of just six U-boats. American military strategy put a dent in this terrifying success rate – the convoy system made every attacking U-boat a target. Military science dented the success rate even further – the development of radar enabled America’s defenders to accurately pinpoint a U-boat – as long as it was on the surface. U-boats usually traveled on the surface where their speed was much greater. A submerged submarine could not be detected by radar but it traveled slowly making it unable to catch an enemy ship and, more importantly, once detected, unable to outmaneuver one. *Sonobuoys* remain an integral part of our military defense program. During his electronics work he had to obtain security clearances from the US Department of Defense in 1963 and 1967, and undoubtedly, again in 1969.<sup>14</sup> On 21 January 1963 he obtained his first such “secret” clearance after an investigation by *INM* of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A second investigation resulted in a similar clearance being issued on 10 January 1967 with *VALENTINE* listing the investigative agency as both *DCASR* (Defense Contract Administrative Services Region) and *DISCO* (Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office, est. 1 March 1965), of Ohio on his application for a third clearance in January 1969. At the time of this last application, the second clearance was still active.

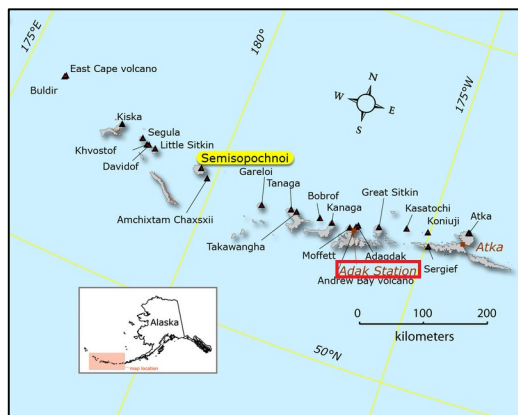
1967 saw the launch of the Soviet *Victor* class of nuclear attack submarines to augment their older *November* and *Golf-II* classes. Just after midnight in the first minutes of 8 March 1968 the Soviet *Golf-II* class ballistic missile submarine *K-129* sank with three nuclear warheads while on maneuvers in the Pacific Ocean. The Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTAC) tap on the U.S. Navy’s Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS) array that terminated at and was monitored by the Naval Air Station on Adak Island was one of three acoustical points used to pinpoint the location of the onboard explosions that sank the submarine. The United States Navy located the sunken sub some 600 nautical miles north of Midway Island in early August of that year after the Soviets failed to find it. *Project Azorian* was the United States secret operation to salvage the sub which would involve the building of the *Hughes Glomar Explorer* under the cover story of HOWARD HUGHES and his search for deep-sea mineral deposits. One of the earliest steps was to create an impenetrable curtain of United States surveillance around the site, to try to block penetration by the superior Soviet submarines and any attempt of the Soviet Navy to interfere with the salvage operation. Though details of *Project Azorian* remain classified state secrets to this day, much has been released and it is clear that VAL could have had a role to play in the unfolding drama, a roll that was cut short by events in Trenton. In early 1971 he was sent to Denver, Colorado for a “special electronics course” followed by a short visit home. In April 1971 VAL headed to the United States Naval Air Facility on Adak Island, Alaska, just missing a 7.2 earthquake that struck the area on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. He was assigned to *Project Beartrap* which was tasked with strengthening the military’s underwater surveillance system to detect Soviet submarines.<sup>15</sup> *Project Beartrap* has been continued through 2014 as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Project K-0416, Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Intelligence (AAI).<sup>16</sup> VAL returned to Trenton in October or November leaving his presence on Adak on 6 November 1971



in question. On that date, the 5-megaton nuclear device *cannikin* was detonated underground by the United States on Amchitka Island, 125 miles west of Adak; it remains the largest underground test by the United States to this day. Some *experts* thought might cause damage on Adak and other islands in the area so *preparedness training* was mandated for all residents. The extent of the training was being told to *run up the nearest hill* if you see a tidal wave approaching. Not only was the training minimal, so too was the ability of the experts; nothing was felt on the island. However, the decimation of wildlife was greatly underestimated and leaks of radioactive plutonium and americium have been documented as late as 2015. VAL's security clearance prevented him from disclosing any details of the operation, an oath he kept the rest of his life. It was forty years after the fact that enough of the details of *Project Azorian* surfaced to underscore, though not prove, his involvement, as much remains classified. A small part of *K-129* was eventually retrieved in 1974. As a testament to the top-secret nature of the project, and the lack of information on the Soviet military, NATO still classifies the *Golf-II* as a non-nuclear attack submarine despite the *K-129* incident. The SOSUS array, costing over \$16 billion, remains active to this day, though, rather than charting the enemy, it is used to help marine biologists understand the sounds of underwater animal life.

ALBERTA worked at various jobs over the years to supplement their income; at various times she was a salesperson at Dunham's Department Store, a waitress at Blackstone's Restaurant, an envelope "stuffer," which I remember quite well, and several others. Their marriage continued to be a difficult one and by the 1970s the changes in societal mores and, most importantly, Church doctrine allowed for the possibility of divorce without being excommunicated. ALBERTA started consultation with an attorney but whether the emotional stress of divorce was too great or by coincidence, a divorce was not to happen.

ALBERTA became ill in August 1971 and was hospitalized in Trenton's Saint Francis Hospital during October 1971 where she was finally diagnosed as having systemic lupus erythematosus. She died at 10:25 am on Monday, 6 December 1971. Her funeral was conducted



by the Rogers Funeral Home in Trenton and the Roman Catholic mass was held at Saint Raphael's Roman Catholic Church. She was buried on 9 December 1971 in Section T in *Saint Mary's Cemetery* in the plot next to her mothers. VAL and ALBERTA had bought the plots shortly after DOROTHY MATELENA's death in 1960.

ALBERTA wanted to be buried next to her mother, giving the reason as she did not wish to spend eternity being buried "alone" – which proved to be sound foresight as events would have it. Fulfilling this wish however meant contravening the convention of the wife being buried at her husband's left side, a fact that

appeared to carry little significance to ALBERTA or VALENTINE. Some eighteen years after her death, family members received a surprise while reading the local newspaper with their morning coffee. In 1997 the local, morning newspaper, *The Trentonian*, featured a pictorial review called "Remember Sport Night" and there was a young ALBERTA, seated on the gymnasium floor of Trenton Central High School with the rest of her squad! LILA CIPRIANO recalled this event in which both of Trenton Central High School's basketball teams, the 'Red' and the 'Black,' played



against each other. Each team had their own cheerleading squad. A photo of one of the squads shows ALBERTA<sup>17</sup>

VALENTINE remained at NADC (RCA) and raised the family, with tremendous help from VALERIE who assumed the burden of the homemaking job at the age of 19. Seeing the growing family through these first years without ALBERTA, she managed to graduate from Trenton State College and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio for graduate school in 1974.

On Saturday, 13 December 1975, VALENTINE married a second time.<sup>18</sup> His wife was MILDRED DALE CLIVER (born 2 October 1933, south of Bordentown in Hedding, NJ, daughter of HERBERT L. CLIVER and MARY ANNA CHANCE<sup>19</sup>) known as “DALE” to all. Their wedding ceremony took place at home, 684 Independence Avenue. The minister was REVEREND GARY W. HOPE from DALE’S church in Columbus. VAL’S son ROBERT served as best-man, while TINA, ROBERT’S then wife, was the maid-of-honor. They had a brief honeymoon in the Pocono Mountains before returning to their new lives. DALE had never had children, though she had been married twice before, first to THEODER SHEPPARD and second to FRANK MASALSKI. She recalled a time when she was at a county fair as a teenager when she went to a “fortune teller.” There she listened as she was told that she would have five children and be married three times. Passing the age of 40, she had the thought “So much for the fortune teller.” Little did she realize, that prophesy would come true in two more years.

As for DALE’S family:<sup>20</sup> not much is known about her mother MARY A. CHANCE (born 1911, NJ). DALE’S father was HERBERT L. CLIVER (born 1905, NJ) and they were married before 1929. In 1930 HERBERT and MARY had one son HERBERT L. CLIVER, JUNIOR (born 1929) and they were living with his parents CHARLES and LEANETTE CLIVER in Hedding, between Bordentown and Florence in Mansfield Township; also living with them is CHARLES and LEANETTE’S adopted daughter IRENE E. ALLEN (born 1907). By 1940 HERBERT, a farm laborer is listed as head-of-household at 151 Old York Road with his parents now living in his house. HERBERT and MARY’S family grew with the addition of: BARBARA MAY CLIVER (born 25 June 1931, Hedding, Burlington Co, NJ; died 5 July 2003, Chesterfield, Burlington Co, NJ), MILDRED DALE CLIVER (born 9 October 1933), CLIFFORD CLIVER (born 1936, NJ; died 19 February 1998, Willingboro, Burlington Co, NJ) and LESTER W. CLIVER (born 1938), and Thomas Edward Cliver (born 25 June 1945; died 17 March 2007, Jacksonville, FL); their first son HERBERT L. CLIVER, JUNIOR died in Philadelphia, PA on 30 November 1930 and was buried in Pointville Cemetery (Fort Dix) Burlington County, NJ. Also living with them in 1940 is LEANETTE’S brother WILLIAM HERBERT (born 1880) and HERBERT’S brother-in-law JOHN CHANCE (born 1904) from Florence. DALE’S father, HERBERT L. CLIVER, was the son of CHARLES G. CLIVER and LEANETTE HERBERT (born 1876). LEANETTE was the daughter of ABRAM HERBERT (born 1845) and CAROLINE “CARRIE” ERRICKSON (born 1851) from Ocean Township, Monmouth County. LEANETTE had three older siblings: ELVINA (born 1871), LILLIE (born 1872) and JAMES E. HERBERT (born 1874) and one younger one: WILLIAM HERBERT (born 1879). CAROLINE ERRICKSON was the daughter of WILLIAM R. (born 1825) and ELVINA ERRICKSON (born 1828) of Howell Township, Monmouth County. CAROLINE had two older and two younger siblings: MARY E. (born 1848), LYDIA A. (born 1849), ALFRED C. (born 1853) and MATILDA ERRICKSON (born 1856). DALE’S paternal grandfather, CHARLES G. CLIVER (born 1870) and his wife LEANETTE HERBERT lived on the Pemberton to Pointville Road in Pemberton Township in 1910;

by 1920 they moved to 160 Second Street, Bordentown. DALE's mother MARY A. CLIVER died in the 1960s and her father HERBERT married second MARTHA; HERBERT died in the early 1970s and MARTHA was living in Vincentown, NJ when VAL and DALE married.

DALE worked at the Westinghouse light bulb factory in Trenton and continued to do so for another year. VAL retired from RCA in July 1976, and DALE retired around the same time. They enjoyed themselves immensely, taking ballroom dancing lessons, going on camping trips, country western dancing and many other pass times. They decided to move to Florida and spent much of 1978 doing the necessary upkeep to sell a 25-year old home that had seen five children grow up. Their house sold on 16 July 1979, to CHARLES BROADBENT, JUNIOR for \$44,000.00.<sup>21</sup> By this time MELISSA was the only child left living at home.

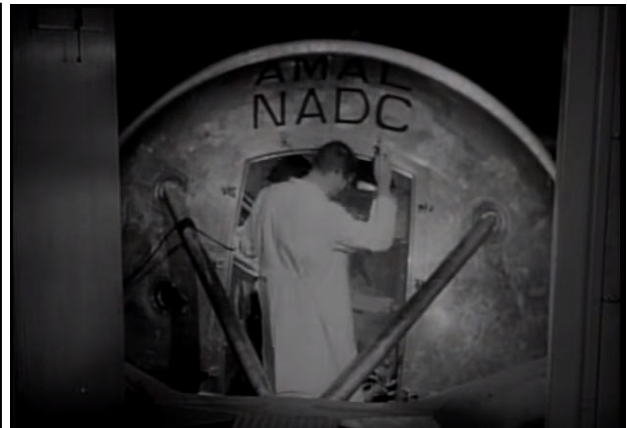
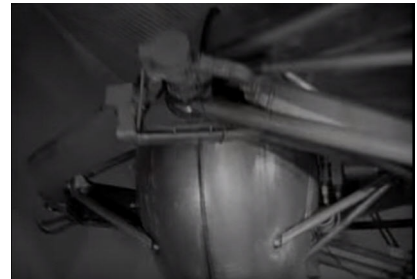
VAL, DALE and MELISSA left for Florida in July 1979 and lived in the mobile home of VAL's sister MARGARET in Lantana while their own home was being built. Six months later they were able to move into their new home at 143 Village Circle, Jupiter, Florida, a few miles north of West Palm Beach. VAL's skills in electronics were in demand and he was hired as a consultant for some company. As a consultant he decided to incorporate as *M.D. Smith, Incorporated*, an electronic contracting corporation. DALE returned to work as well, taking a position in a nursery school which she enjoyed immensely. While at work one day in 1981, she complained of not feeling well shortly before collapsing. She was taken to the hospital where it was discovered she had suffered a cerebral hemorrhagic stroke. An emergency surgical procedure was performed to release the growing pressure as they could not stop the blood flow. Complications from this surgery left her throat paralyzed; she lost her voice as well as the ability to swallow; while the stroke left it very difficult to move around. A lifetime of smoking made her extremely susceptible to pneumonia as well. Once stabilized, she returned to their home to hopefully recuperate. During this time VAL schooled himself in various massage and reflex techniques in an effort to help his wife regain some of her lost functions. Unfortunately, after what appeared to be a promising start, DALE lost the will to live and passed away on 7 July 1982. The funeral was conducted by the Village Funeral Home in Jupiter, followed by cremation. VAL spread her ashes according to her previously-expressed desires. Using his newly-learned skills, VAL became a licensed masseur in Florida in 1984 and worked on a select clientele at various resorts.

He married a third time, to JOAN BARBARA ROBBINS (born 4 March 1933 in Manchester, CT; daughter of OTTO and ESTHER NEUBAUER). The ceremony was performed by HAL ROSENCRANS, minister at Unity Church, 1957 South Flagler Drive, Palm Beach on 2 April 1989.<sup>22</sup> Witnesses were MARY P. NEUBAUER and RUDOLPH O. NEUBAUER. JOAN was from Manchester, CT and had been married first to DALE MATHER, divorced and married second to \_\_\_\_\_ ROBBINS, divorced 27 October 1988. She had three sons with her first husband. VAL sold his home in Jupiter and moved into JOAN's condominium in Tequesta, Florida for a number of years. She worked during the winter months, as a hair stylist in a local salon. They purchased a recreational vehicle and traveled for four to six months a year, alternating between heading north along the Eastern seaboard to visit VALERIE, MELISSA and CRAIG, and heading west to California to visit sons BRIAN and BOB, as well as VAL's brother JACK. They decided to sell the condominium and move to a house in Hobe Sound on property owned by JOAN's ex-husband DALE. They lived there until 2003 when they moved in with JOAN's son STEVE in Juno Beach (North Palm Beach) FL.



VAL was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease around 2000 but remained relatively well until 2005. His condition began deteriorating rapidly in early 2006, necessitating a move to a care facility in May 2006. He passed away on 19 June 2006 which was the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first marriage. A memorial service, which included a military salute, was held at Howard-Price Funeral Home, 754 US Highway One, North Palm Beach on Sunday, 9 July 2006. He was cremated and part of his ashes were scattered at sea by his widow JOAN while the rest were buried in the *Saint Mary's Cemetery* (Trenton) plot he had bought with his first wife ALBERTA in 1960. A military marker was placed in the plot in 2007. JOAN continues to live in Juno Beach.

NADC in Johnsville was the location of the human centrifuge where every United States astronaut trained. The facility was open on family day festivities and is a cherished memory of the author – that and his defeat of the 1960s Univac computer at tic-tac-toe.



ISSUE:

- 1) WILLIAM CRAIG SMITH: graduated from Hamilton High School West in 1969 and married KATHY (WALSH) KINEY on 1 May 1971 at Saint Vincent DePaul Roman Catholic Church in Groveville, Mercer County, NJ. They had four children:
  - a) HOLLY PAIGE SMITH: born 20 February 1972; married June 1999 to STAN RILEY, lived in Maryland briefly, returning to Trenton in 2000; they live in Ewing Township.
    - i) JOHN STANLEY RILEY: born and died 28 November 1999, Maryland, interred *Saint Mary's Cemetery*, Trenton, NJ
    - ii) STANLEY RILEY, JUNIOR: born 4 November 2001, Trenton, Mercer County NJ
  - b) NICOLE SHANNON SMITH: born 15 July 1973; baptized 4 November 1973 at Saint

Anthony's Church, Trenton; married 1 October 1999 to GARY MCCLURE, Yardley, PA, living in Bristol, PA.

- i) AINSLEY GRACE MCCLURE, born 12 February 2004. 2017 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Award recipient (Pennsylvania). Pitcher, Class 6A, First Team, Pennsylvania High School Softball Coaches Association 2021 all-state team.
- c) BRADFORD CRAIG SMITH, born 25 January 1976; baptized February 1976 at Saint Anthony's Church, Trenton; married 12 May 2004 to SHERRI BURZACHIELO.
  - i) AUSTIN CRAIG SMITH: born 28 June 2006.
  - ii) JACOB SMITH: born circa November 2007.
- d) JOEL CHRISTIAN SMITH, born 2 March 1978

CRAIG and KATHY were divorced in 1978. CRAIG married second DONA VUKSON, nee GLENDINNINGH on 23 June 1990. The ceremony was performed on board the *Costa Riviera* at the port in Fort Lauderdale, FL. DONA was born 9 September 1947 to JAMES and GRACE ELIZABETH (SKED) GLENDINNINGH. They lived in Ewing Township. They separated in 1992 and subsequently divorced. CRAIG worked for the NJ Department of Transportation since 1970, retiring from there in 2006; he currently lives in Ewing Township, NJ. On 15 June 2003 he had a commitment ceremony with his girlfriend TONI, in Cape Cod, MA.

- 2) VALERIE JEAN SMITH: graduated from Hamilton High School West in 1970; received a Bachelor's degree in education from Trenton State College in 1974<sup>23</sup> and completed graduate studies leading to a Master's degree in pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati. She married MICHAEL JOHN TRENTMAN at Saint John's Roman Catholic Church in West Chester, Ohio on 21 October 1989. She is a pharmacist and they live in Liberty Township, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio.
  - a) REBECCA JEAN TRENTMAN: born 23 July 1990, Cincinnati, Ohio. Graduated Lakota East High School, 6 June 2009, Commencement Ceremony at Millet Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Doctorate of Pharmacology, University of Cincinnati. Married BRANDON MICHAEL NOTAR (born 2 September), son of DANIEL NOTAR, on 7 October 2017 at Saint John the Evangelist Church, West Chester, Ohio.
    - i) ELEANOR JEAN NOTAR: born 14 February 2020, Cincinnati, Ohio.
  - b) ELIZABETH MARIE TRENTMAN: born 30 July 1991, Cincinnati, Ohio. Graduated Lakota East High School, 31 May 2008, Commencement Ceremony at Millet Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- 3) ROBERT JOSEPH SMITH: graduated from Hamilton High School West in 1973; married 9 August 1975 to MARY CHRISTINA "TINA" DEGLIUMBERTO at Saint Raphael's Roman Catholic Church in Trenton, no children, divorced in 1977. ROBERT graduated from Los Angeles College of Chiropractic in April 1980 with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. He has lived in Santa Cruz, CA since 1982. He has a daughter by SHELLY OVERHULSER. SHELLY passed away in 2003.
  - a) TABITHA OVERHULSER: born 18 July 1978.

- 4) BRIAN ALBERT SMITH: Birth was announced in the *Trenton Evening Times* on 6 September 1959.<sup>24</sup> He was baptized at Saint Raphael's Church with MARGARET and PETE GURLAND as godparents; 9 November 1970 confirmed at same church with sponsor being LOUIS MAKRANCY; graduated from Hamilton High School West in 1977. Lives in Orlando, Florida and is a Doctor of Chiropractic. Narrative continued in separate file.
- 5) MELISSA DOROTHY "MISSY" SMITH: baptized at Saint Raphael's Church with JOSEPH and PAT SMITH as godparents. She lived Jupiter, FL from 1978 to 1990, interrupted by three years in Incline Village, NV between 1981 and 1984. She was married in a private ceremony to JOSEPH P. NOLAN on 28 January 1991 at Kona Village Resort in Kona, Hawaii. They had a wedding ceremony for friends and family on 17 March 1991 aboard the showboat *Empress of Palm Beach* from Singer Island, Palm Beach County, FL. They moved north, first to Lancaster, PA and currently in Kennett Square, PA, south of Philadelphia.
  - a) SARA MELISSA NOLAN: born 6 August 1992, Lancaster, PA. Graduated Westminster School, Simsbury, Connecticut, 30 May 2010.
  - b) ERIN VERONICA NOLAN: born 18 September 1994, Kennett Square, PA. Married JOEL SIMONE, 25 September 2021, Carlin Park, Jupiter, Fl.
  - c) ANNA MADELENA NOLAN: born 28 June 2000, Kennett Square, PA.
  - d) CATHERINE ROSA NOLAN: born 29 January 2003, Kennett Square, PA.

<sup>1</sup> Certificate of Live Birth, Valentine Smith, No.147-41390; West Virginia Dep't. of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Charleston, WV 25305

<sup>2</sup> Certificate of Marriage No. 48881, Mercer County, NJ

<sup>3</sup> *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 1 February 1948, part 3, 3: 5.

<sup>4</sup> R.L. Polk & Co. Trenton, Mercer County, Parts of Ewing, Hamilton, and Lawrence Directory, 1948, p. 845.

<sup>5</sup> E-mail to author from Mary Frances McElhare, Clerk, Academic Records, Drexel College, 25 June 2004.

<sup>6</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 9 December 1949.

<sup>7</sup> Mercer County Deeds, vol. 1204, p. 330; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.

<sup>8</sup> Mercer County Mortgages, vol. 936, p. 115, 18 August 1952, recorded 20 August 1952, paid 20 December 1976; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.

<sup>9</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 6 July 1958 and 22 July 1962

<sup>10</sup> *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, 3:5

<sup>11</sup> "Shot Misses Prowler Flees From Rooftops," *Trenton Evening Times*, 14 June 1955, part 1, 1:2

<sup>12</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 30 June 1959, 21:5

<sup>13</sup> Valentine W. Smith, Social Security No. 146-16-0588

<sup>14</sup> Employment and personal information for VW Smith obtained from a draft of the US Department of Defense "Statement of Personal History" form 398, undated – circa January 1969, in possession of author (2009).

<sup>15</sup> Valentine W. Smith, Uniform Services Identification and Privilege Card, No. AF0,277,338, USAF Civilian, RCA (AAC Logistics),

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; issued 17 May 1971, expires 1 July 1972.

<sup>16</sup> Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Intelligence (AAI) (formerly known as Project Beartrap) Support Services, Jun 27, 2014; <https://govtribe.com/project/airborne-anti-submarine-warfare-asw-intelligence-aai-formerly-known-as-project-beartrap-support-services/activity>

<sup>17</sup> Lila Cipriano "Remember Sport Night," *The Trentonian*. (Trenton, NJ) 23 August 1977, page 35.

<sup>18</sup> Certificate of Marriage, License No. 75-597, Mercer County, NJ

<sup>19</sup> *Allentown Messenger*, Allentown, New Jersey 12 October 1933

<sup>20</sup> Information on the Cliver family obtained from US Census returns of 1850, 1860, 1920, 1930 and 1940.

<sup>21</sup> Mercer County Deeds, vol. 2108, p. 196, 16 July 1979, recorded 18 July 1979; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.

<sup>22</sup> Application for Marriage License No. 89-365-N, License No. 89-132115, Palm Beach County, FL

<sup>23</sup> "2 Area Women Given Degrees," *The Evening Times*, 16 July 1974, 18B:3.

<sup>24</sup> *Trenton Evening Times*, 6 September 1959, p 26